

**DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY
PLUMBING BUREAU
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
414 EAST AVENUE, POST FALLS, ID 83854
JUNE 3, 2005**

*The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussion at the meeting,
but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.*

DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY EMPLOYEES: Dave Munroe, Administrator; Ted Hogander, Plumbing Bureau Chief; Ken Holt, Plumbing Inspector; Renee Bryant, Recorder

BOARD MEMBERS: Russ Firkins, Chairman; Ray Coon; Ben Schooley; Bob Livesay; Milford Terrell

GUESTS: Kay Christensen, Deputy Attorney General; Mike Kelly, Plumbers/Fitters Local Union 296; Ed and Betty Howland, Boise State University; Pat O'Neal, Studor, Inc.; Leroy Gill, Gill Plumbing; Dennis Beaver, Beaver Plumbing & Heating; Mike Foley, Plumbers/Fitters Local Union 44; Brad Ziel, Chuck Knapp, and Rod Freligh, Plumbing/HVAC Inspectors.

The June 3, 2005 Plumbing Board meeting was brought to order at 9:00 a.m.

APRIL 15, 2005 BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Coon made a motion to accept the April 15, 2005 Plumbing Board Minutes. Mr. Livesay seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

AGENDA: Board agreed to proceed with current agenda.

PITLESS ADAPTORS: Discussed liability issue if Plumbing agreed to do courtesy (visual) inspections for the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), as stated in their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A letter written by Mr. Homan, Deputy Attorney General for IDWR, was read to Board.

Discussed creating legislation to make pitless adaptors part of the plumbing system to include permitting, testing and inspections.

Mr. Terrell made a motion to have our Attorney General prepare legislation in effect to tie the Plumbing Bureau into the pitless adaptor inspection. Mr. Coon seconded. Four ayes and one opposed, motion carried.

AIR ADMITTANCE VALVES: Mr. O'Neil, Studor, Inc., testified to the validity of Studor vents; i.e., standards/codes they meet, safety of product, proper use/installation and states currently using their product. Mr. O'Neil suggested granting limited approval of the valves.

Board agreed to continue this discussion at the next board meeting; try to fine tune and possibly come up with an agreement on a limited use.

APPRENTICES AND SUPERVISION: Ms. Christensen explained various types of supervision, as discussed at the last meeting. Audience participation/discussion pursued on the degree of supervision (wording) vs. apprentice level of independent working. Board decided to continue this discussion at the next Board meeting.

TANKLESS WATER HEATERS: Discussed energy efficiency, first hour ratings, flow rates, one vs. multi-units per home, venting and gas pressure/piping. Plumbing staff to attend Boise city's Plumbing and Mechanical Board meeting, Tuesday, June 7, 2005, 9:45 a.m.

The Plumbing staff to research and discuss, at the next board meeting, the possible requirements/specifications for installing tankless water heaters in Idaho.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Washington and Oregon, only states surrounding Idaho with continuing education programs. Those states require journeymen to complete 16 hours of continuing education before renewing their two-year licenses.

Audience agreed continued education classes for contractors and journeymen in Idaho are a great idea, however; felt testing shouldn't be required.

The Board requested the Plumbing staff to research the requirements for possible reciprocity agreements with Nevada and Utah.

Mr. Livesay made a motion to: 1. Continue dialog with Washington and Oregon on continuing education, and 2. Research possibility of reciprocal agreements with Nevada and Utah. Mr. Terrell seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

PLUMBING FUND BALANCE: Mr. Munroe reviewed Plumbing's financial reports, through April 2005.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the Plumbing Fund Balance. Suggestions for possible recommendations to the JFAC committee on reducing the Plumbing Fund Balance are: 1. Forego collecting licensing fees for a year or two, and 2. Reducing permit fees, across the board, for a couple of years.

FLAT RATE FEES: Mr. Hogander presented a proposal on flat rate fees based on the square footage (living space, finished and/or unfinished) of a home. Board members prefer proposal on toilet count, presented at last board meeting, rather than square footage count.

The majority of the board members are in favor of reducing fees. The suggested rule change concerning sewer and water fees, addressed at last board meeting, was briefly discussed.

Mr. Terrell made a motion to take the sewer and water fees as a combination plumbing fee, as an \$8.00 item per each, if the contractor is doing the whole work. Mr. Coon seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AGENCY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: Ms. Christensen read the changes to the MOU, as requested at the last board meeting.

Board discussed which Bureau, Plumbing or HVAC, has authority/jurisdiction to permit/inspect snow melt systems, gas piping and hydronics. Also, Boise State University Apprenticeship program has an extensive curriculum on gas piping.

Mr. Terrell made a motion to accept the second reading with the modifications as read by our Attorney General and to go into the third reading of the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Coon seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

AGENCY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (CONT'D): Mr. Terrell made a motion to accept the third reading of the Memorandum of Understand and adopt that Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Coon seconded and then withdrew his second to the motion.

Mr. Terrell made a motion that Subpart 1 of Paragraph II: Agreement, as set forth in the proposed MOU, be amended to exclude boilers subject to inspection by the Industrial Commission and to include hydronics in addition to gas piping and, as amended, move that the MOU be approved by this Board and executed by the Chairman. Mr. Coon seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Terrell proposed discussing, at the next meeting, the renting of contractor licenses. He would like to review legislation and possibly start a procedure. The Chairman, with the Board's approval, requested the Attorney General to write a memorandum stating the Board is going to investigate into this matter and to draft legislation.

Board agreed to add this item to the agenda and discuss at the next board meeting.

Mr. Coon made a motion to adjourn the Plumbing Board meeting. Mr. Terrell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The Plumbing Board meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

DAVE MUNROE
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

DATE